

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That an additional article be added to the Code of Public General Laws to follow Article 1 of Bagby's Annotated Code of 1924 and to be known as Article 1 A and to read as follows:

SEC. 1. (Definition of Terms.) In this Act, "aircraft" includes balloon,, airplane, hydroplane, and every other vehicle used for navigation through the air. A hydroplane, while at rest on water and while being operated on or immediately above water, shall be governed by the rules regarding water navigation; while being operated through the air otherwise than immediately above water, it shall be treated as an aircraft.

"Aeronaut" includes aviator, pilot, balloonist, and every other person having any part in the operation of aircraft while in flight.

"Passenger" includes any person riding in an aircraft, but having no part in its operation.

SEC. 2. (Sovereignty in Space.) Sovereignty in the space above the lands and waters of this State is declared to rest in the State, except where granted to and assumed by the United States pursuant to a constitutional grant from the people of this State.

SEC. 3. (Ownership of Space.) The ownership of the space above the lands and waters of this State is declared to be vested in the several owners of the surface beneath, subject to the right of flight described in Section 4.

SEC. 4. (Lawfulness of Flight.) Flight in aircraft over the lands and waters of this State is lawful, unless at such a low altitude as to interfere with the then existing use to which the land or water, or the space over the land or water is put by the owner, or unless so conducted as to be imminently dangerous to persons or property lawfully on the land or water beneath. The landing of an aircraft on the lands or waters of another, without his consent, is unlawful, except in the case of a forced landing. For damages caused by a forced landing, however, the owner or lessee of the aircraft or the aeronaut shall be liable, as provided in Section 5.

SEC. 5. (Damage on Land.) The owner of every aircraft which is operated over the lands or waters of this State is absolutely liable for injuries to persons or property on the land or water beneath, caused by the ascent, descent or flight of the aircraft, or the dropping or falling of any object there-